The appearance of Diadema Setosum sea urchins on the northern coast of Beirut

Alexander Hourani

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Sea urchins of the type Diadema Setosum have increased on the northern coast of Beirut this summer 2025. Their first appearance, as reported to me by fishermen, was in last summer 2024. However, this year I have noticed, while diving on the northern coast of Beirut in Ain el-Mraiseh, that their numbers have been growing in places where they didn't exist before.

Diadema Setosum has the following properties:

1) long spines,

2) 5 white spots on the abactinal side.

Before 2012, Arbacia Lixula was the usual type of sea urchins that we used to see on the northern coast of Beirut. This type disappeared around 2012 for unknown reasons.

The following photos are of two examples of Diadema Setosum which I took out from the sea in Ain el-Mraiseh in November 2025.

The first example shown from the actinal side

The first example shown from the abactinal side

The second example shown from the abactinal side, with only 4 white spots appearing, the 5th being hidden by the spines